18/8/74

| Angle-land |

Page 1. .... and again they burnt it.
Burnt what? ..... answered
in Keel, Rann, Stavros

Page 3 persons who can accept Birth, 30-odd yr old-incarnate, Cross etc, Resurrection, Ascension, but can't accept 'quod in carnem transit panis'

not raggle-taggle gypsies

Fr J O'C 'we bloody sinners need that prayer'

4. B likes 'not a puff ~~of~~ o' wind
without her'

'lateened her bolster'

The army of Artaxerxes utterly destroyed
for lack of sanitation

X 6. Fr Noel & Mohnaeus: how bloody right

7 Pick-em-Shenkin a test
party... mystery

climate-change & modal music

Master stands to right of mate
at wheel

Pick-em-Shenkin = Dai

Harman & Margaret (p.10)

①

c/o The Little Company of Mary
~~Calvary~~ Calvary Nursing Home
Harrow-on-the-Hill
Middlesex.

Gŵyl·ELEN·SANTES·AC·
MERODRES
18·dydd·o·fis·Awst·
OED·Xt: MCMLXXIV

Thursday afternoon Aug 29th your letter of 27th with Ayleland page come. Can't go into that in this letter, but will take the opportunity to say that the answer to your question of a letter or so back ~~re~~ Middle sea · [illegible]

page 96–97 3rd line from top of ⑨⑦ 'He's drained it again & again the brim of it' Brim what? what did the old padrone ~~[illegible]~~ drink? is answered in the last two pages of Keel, Ram & Stauros

for there I turn back ~~from the~~ to the shipmaster & to the 'Hellenic waters'. 'To his left elbow the helmsman is quite immobile now....' He (the Captain) [illegible] Outboard & to her-ward St. Athena whatever is left of the Calix ~~[illegible]~~ in the hull to mingle the ~~[illegible]~~ perhaps the [illegible] water

on the deeps of the drink his precious dregs / laid up to the gods
Libation drinks her sea / he would berth on schedule.
p. 182.

René annwyl

At last writing of your typescript on Rite and Foretime as you'll see from the above date it was begun In Fest. Helena Dei XVIII ~~[illegible]~~ Augusti 1974 and it's now Tuesday, Aug. 20th. Delays of all sorts stopped me. ymerodres is the modern Welsh for Empress – ~~it used to be~~ the wife of an Imperator, that became in Early Welsh ymherawdwr I think it was at one time spelt amherawdwr – the sound would be very close to imperátor, & ymerodres pronounced um-her-row-dres for ~~imperatrix~~ equals pretty close to ~~[illegible]~~ imperatrix

More meandering!

I think I noted in a rambling letter posted a day or two back that my twin-urbes did not refer to Urbs Roma & the city of Jerusalem but to whatever is meant by the man who is an householder who ~~brought~~ bringeth forth ~~from~~ in his treasure new things and old'. in Scripture, still can't recall where in Scripture. But it is a very very familiar quotation.

in Earlier Welsh
-awc what became
-og in later Welsh
or -oc i.e.
mod. Caradog
as a chap's name,
was Caradawc in
Middle Welsh – from a Brittonic
~~Caratacos~~
~~Caratacus~~
Caratácus (or os)

He, the Ship's master stood on the right of the second in command/ a lieutenant at the Wheel.
I remember asking Mick R. about that.

None of these ~~[illegible]~~ pages in the letter have been read through –;

② ②

on sheet 4 of typscript, paragraph 2, you speak of my use of by pre-appliation. is it not the term ordinarily used ~~by~~ ~~theologians, 'preapplied Grace'~~.
by Catholic theologians, the technical term is 'preapplied Grace'

Yes, dont much like ~~[illegible]~~ Dr Finberg & F O'Connell's 'Worthy of the human spirit' for rationabilem, but [illegible] 'reasonable' just by itself, ~~[illegible]~~ does not ~~[illegible]~~ evoke all that is required. Curiously enough when the boys were trying to vernacularize the words of the Latin text, I was told that rationabilem did not equate with what was intended by the Greek-Hebraic, Aramaic in which it would have a meaning more like 'righteous' or 'holy' — I forget now but I know there was an argument about it. But rather with the same sort of the difference between the Catholic use of 'justice' where protestants would say 'righteousness'.

The truth is that you cant* 'translate' bene✠dictam, adscri✠ptam, ra✠tam, rationabilem, acceptabilemque ~~fac~~ facere digneris — and ~~[illegible]~~ those ~~[illegible]~~ three crux-signs together with the words make a superb whole. And after all, the petition of the Quam oblationem ~~[illegible]~~ etc, prayer could not be ~~[illegible] acceptable~~ ~~the~~ made acceptable by God the Father Almighty had what was offered ~~[illegible]~~ lacked in any way, ratam, rationabilem. For 'right reason' & 'rationality' is required of anthropos — whether he is considered as under the command of Prudentia or abiding by the judgments of Ars. — ~~[illegible]~~ whether it is praxis or poiesis, it must be 'reasonable' — but why am I wasting your time with this stuff when you know about ~~ten~~ times better than I do.

~~Sheet 7 of typescript.~~

Stet

Sheet ⑥ of typescript.
'Closed lattice – each door' yes, along with much else I have no doubt the "Close the door, they're coming through the window" verse that years before

Sorry about all this, as you know it all

I would leave it w/ ex[illegible] I dont want to write the stuff on the ~~[illegible]~~ other side again

*not at least, without recasting the passage in such a way as to evoke what is ~~evo~~ evoked by the Latin words and ~~what~~ which might be managed with regard to some of the words in one vernacular would fail in another. After all, English is not the only vernacular, not i England round about 1920 or, maybe earlier, Teddy Wolfe an ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ artist friend, a very jovial chap & Jewish blood, Extremely amusing & with a sense of sadness underneath, used to sing. — yes must have been later, round about 1928 for he was a member of the 7 & 5 Society. Curious how damned difficult ~~it~~ it is to get dates right. I still think it pretty funny & very true.

Sheet 7 – 'twin-arches', ~~as~~ I mention in my last letter, ~~[illegible]~~ how it ~~[illegible]~~ had no connection with ~~[illegible]~~ Arks Rome & Jerusalem. No wonder you were 'by no means happy' ~~[illegible]~~ ~~about that~~.

Sheet 8 yes, it used to worry me ~~as~~ a child or in my teens, how it was that in the protestant milieu, chaps appeared to find no difficulty in accepting the Birth narrative & the thirty years or so of God Incarnate, ~~[illegible]~~ then ~~S~~ Salvation through the Cross, the Resurrection & ~~[illegible]~~ Ascension. & yet ~~[illegible]~~ found the ~~Incarnate God~~ same Incarnate God as held by catholics ~~to be~~ under the species of Bread & Wine: (Dogma datur Xtianis Quod in carnem transit panis Et vinum in sanguinem.) a monstrous perversion & anyway impossible to believe, Whereas I found it, regardless of it's truth or untruth far ~~[illegible]~~ ~~more~~ 'easy' to believe than ~~the~~ idea of 'He by whom all things are that are' should live for 30 years or so as an ordinary ~~[illegible]~~ human being in 1st Cent. Palestine.

Sheet 9 of typescript

Page 51 continued.

Para 1 line 21 "he sings high & he says low"

No, ~~don't~~ that ~~[illegible]~~ is not ~~that~~ derived from The Raggle-taggle gypsies ~~but~~ from various other sources of ~~[illegible]~~ rubrics, for instance, ~~in~~ voce secreta & the rubric directing him to raise his voice somewhat at Nobis quoque peccatoribus and elsewhere, such as the intelligibili voce — dicit at the Agnus Dei and the et dicit ~~intellig~~ intelligibili voce vel cantat before he says Per omnia secula saeculorum. Amen & continues Oremus: praeceptis salutaribus moniti etc. immediately before the Pater Noster.

old John O'Connor used to speak about that & "very good rubric that – we bloody sinners need that prayer."

I use the same words in I.P. when the Queen of the Woods is calling those for whom she has her varied floral awards. Hansel and Goronwy & that swine Lillywhite & Dai Greatcoat. Can't find a copy of I.P. in this chaos of stuff but stone 'Queen of the Woods' — 'she calls high & she calls low' or

Scrubbing of that sort. ~~[illegible] The Ana the Lady of the Pool~~

~~It~~ To change the subject a bit, in *The Ana* the Lady of the Pool,
refers to Our Lady as comprehending in herself ~~all~~ the potent
pre-Xtian cult figures & their sufferings: .

The *Ana* p.128 – [illegible]

She's as she of Aulis, master
not a puff of wind without her!
her fiat is our fortune, sir: like Helen's face
'twas ~~that~~* as launch'd the ship

* i.e. ~~[illegible]~~ Mair's *fiat mihi*

We need to know, to explain the [illegible], but a bloke ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ asked me if 'that' referred to Helen's face!

I quote this here only as having a bearing on my
~~calling that~~ reason for changing Iphigenia to Aphrodite
in the title of that watercolour.
I remember being rather pleased with 'not a puff o' wind without her' & suppose it is
odd how one likes certain chance lines
because one feels most of one's attempts may be 'outers'
or some not on the bloody target at all!

I'm glad you mention ~~it~~ from *Rite & Foretime* the bit about
the recession of the last Ice Age

for The Uhland Father to be-ribbon *die blaue Donau*
with his Vanabride blue.
O long before they lateen'd her Ister
or Romanitas ~~manned~~ manned her gender'd stream.

It was a bit ~~[illegible]~~ of luck that one could
make the lateen sail ~~evoke~~ evoke the Latin *lingua* &
~~manning~~ hands that manned the Roman ~~[illegible]~~ crafts that
and the change in gender in the grammatical sense.
I remember ~~labouring~~ labouring with that ~~[illegible]~~ bit
& how ~~[illegible]~~ to cover these ~~an~~ very differing
matters within as compact as possible ~~the~~ form
of the *poiesis*.

[went up the river with a mate from Ostia & a Puteoli skipper]

~~The~~ On same page (59 *Ana*) waltz tom'd
gay Vindobona in the ~~[illegible]~~ ramshackle
last phase, 'ramshackle' comes from a
demagogic speech made by Lloyd George
about "tearing their [Austria Hungary] ramshackle
empire limb from limb" It chanced that
I heard him use this particular phrase
in the pavilion of the pier at Llandudno early
in 1915 when the RWF etc ~~were~~ were
billeted for a month or so before going
down ~~south~~ to the Winchester area
(Winnall Down & Miss ~~[illegible]~~ Best's tented Rest
for my battalion) ~~[illegible]~~

before ~~about~~ nine months ~~&~~ before being shipped "at Hampton pier on holding ~~due~~ course to Harfleur" early in December 1915. I think about the 10th or 11th Dec.

I liked your ref. to our first few weeks in those sodden fields, it was somewhere in ~~[illegible]~~ the area of British Army H.Q. and I liked very much your quotation from 'Fluellen' all the stuff ~~about~~ the Harfleur bridge and the mines and counter-mines — 'the concavities of it is not sufficient' ... 'is digt himself four yard under the counter-mines by Cheshu, I think a' will plow up all, if there is not better directions." is so evocative of ~~the~~ actual words & the whole attitude of mind behind the words that I ~~&~~ myself heard from ~~[illegible]~~ early 20th Century 'Fluellens' — maybe from men of Mining Companies attached to my Division. or ~~so~~ perhaps from someone in a platoon of my ~~[illegible]~~ Company or Battalion ~~that~~ I mentioned in a note to I.P. which gives account of a man I met on a dark night in a communication trench who was on sanitary ~~Fatig~~ Fatigue & was ~~[illegible]~~ not at all pleased when I ~~remarked that~~ said something about it being a pretty bloody job: "Bloody job! — ~~[illegible]~~ ~~a~~ Bloody job, indeed. The army of Artaxerxes was ~~[illegible]~~ utterly destroyed for lack of ~~[illegible]~~ ~~sanitation satisfaction~~ sanitation." Actually he went on a bit more amply — but I had best read some history. It was fairly dark but I can see his face now. He was a totally Welsh & Welshspeaking Welshman from a rural area of (I think) ~~[illegible]~~ Cardiganshire.

Sorry, even more meanderings

And not being of any use to you.

Anyway I expect it is too late now.

In that bit about my not having read ~~Ulysses~~ Ulysses that you quote from a letter of mine saying how some chap ~~had~~ supposed that I had ~~[illegible]~~ studied that work carefully & I told him ~~that~~ it so happened that I had not read Ulysses — but on the next sheet (30 of your typescript) ~~[illegible]~~ in a continuation of the quote from my letter ~~[illegible]~~ after some [illegible] it reads "you and read aloud to Joan & myself some of Anna Livia which sounds

I often think too of the Welsh captain in Richard the Second Act II, Sc 4 there too he gets a genuine Welsh feeling quite different from Fluellen extravagant thing

The ~~yew~~ bay trees of our country are all withered & meteors fright the fixed stars of Heaven. Our countrymen are gone & fled as well assured Richard their King is dead, as though I had read the fragment from Anna Livia to Joan & yourself whereas it was of course you who had read it to Joan & myself, because with an instinctive feeling for the Irish words you read it almost straight off & I was astonished. That was in fact my ~~[illegible]~~ first 'feel' of that incomparable genius James Joyce. Later I got the record he Joyce made for the Orthological Institution ~~[illegible]~~ at Cambridge ~~now~~ long ~~defunct~~ defunct. That record was stolen with other stuff from a house I stayed in for a while in London. Then after the war Arthur Wheen (dona ei requiem) got me another copy when the Cambridge Institution sold up.

This passage refers to above ~~and~~ the reading is accurate if the reader understands it is a continuation of my letter but as it stands it sounds as though I was the reader whereas it was yourself dear René,

That chap/ to Noel who said Irenaeus* was ~~much~~ more what I preferred, than Augustine — my God! how right he is, how bloody right & then goes on ~~[illegible]~~ to speak of the 'groping syntax' that he sensed feels as he makes those three crux signs ~~at~~ the Te igitur.

That's why I showed in praising him in 'The Sleeping Lord' p. 83. as how he had been the disciple of Polycarp who had been ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ taught by St John himself.

haec ✠ dona haec ✠ munera, haec ✠ sancta sacrificia illibata! ... it is as though you were feeling y'r way to an exact formulation." God bless him* ~~[illegible]~~ I've always loved those words & ~~[illegible]~~ the careful making of those signs, coming ~~so~~ early in the Te igitur.

If there were more priests of the Order of Melchizedec who, (as obvious ~~[illegible]~~ Noel does) understood that Liturgy is pure Poiesis we should not have to tolerate the anguish & havoc inflicted on us by these plasters ~~of~~ apostles of change & yet more change ~~[illegible]~~ done with the most pious pastoral intentions.

Incidentally in that fragment of Balaam's Ass ~~'Ducky Austin' Pte Austin was called~~ by ~~his section~~ And as before he was named by his section Ducky Austin so afterwards he was called Austin the Dodger. But for all the rest there was no help on that open plain.

End of fragment for Bk of Balaam Ass (P 111)

~~[illegible]~~ had certain characteristics of that Great African just as St [illegible], 'Picken-up-Shankin' is meant at least partly to refer to myself.

In that part of Rite and Fore-time page 63
there is a passage reading

Unmeasured, irregular in stress & interval, of interior
rhythm, modal.
If tonic and final are fire
the dominant is ice
if fifth the fire
the cadence.

This passage leads on to the bit ~~and~~ about
At the third Nocturn the hebdomadary is apt to
be vested for five hundred thousand weeks
Intones the Dog:
Benedicite, ignis....
etc, etc,

The lines underlined in red are really a summing up of the changing ~~epochs phases~~ meteorological climate, during the period of the spreading & ~~receding~~ receding ice ages, but stated in ~~[illegible]~~ terms of modal music. When I wrote them I knew exactly what I meant by the terms used. But now I have completely forgotten what 'tonic', 'final' 'fifth', 'cadence' technically connote. And have no means of finding out. 'Unmeasured, irregular in stress and interval of interior rhythm, modal' ~~[illegible]~~ that is obvious but the succeeding terms have gone for me. Which is an awful nuisance as the passage is crucial.

Joan might know the precise meaning of 'tonic', 'final' 'fifth' & 'cadence' or may be you know someone (such as Fr Noel) who would tell you the exact meaning of the technical terms within the modal music of the chant.

8

However as you don't quote that passage – it doesn't really matter. But is it not maddening of me to have forgotten – and I went to great trouble to find how they fitted when I wrote the stuff in ~~[illegible]~~ the late ~~[illegible]~~ nineteen forties. Even then I found certain difficulties because chaps who knew all about music & singing were vague about the terms used of ~~[illegible]~~ the modal chant.

Thursday
Aug 27. Yr letter came this morn & now I cant find it & got the ~~[illegible]~~ envelope ~~[illegible]~~ had read the letter & can't find the letter. The misery of mislaying everything – ah thank God found it, it would seem that our letters cross for the O the Academic! thing I did in my last letter said the Berenson thing. instead of exactly what I meant.

I don't quite know what to do – you've written various comments virtually all of much approval to all you say but not sure how Rite & Foretime script stands in relation to the other separate sheets 29 to 37 & ~~[illegible]~~ & sheets 42 to 47 & a separate Sheet 20A.

but not sheet 31 or 32.

Virtually all you say on these sheets 29–37 & 42–47 I very much liked – I hope you won't cut any of that. And also the separate draft on Rite & Foretime. The only thing I ~~[illegible]~~ wonder about is whether it may in places give the impression that my knowledge of the Greek & Latin classics is much greater than it in fact is. ~~actually is~~. For actually as you know, I have only ~~[illegible]~~ bits & pieces from English translations & many years ~~[illegible]~~ of picking up stuff from Tiger Dawson, Jackson Knight, yourself, Harman & so on. It's much the same with the 'Welsh Celtic' thing though in this case I suppose more intensive for I began that, (i.e. with Rhys, the Mabinogi, Geraldus Cambrensis & ~~[illegible]~~ that maddening Geoffrey of Monmouth, round about 1910 – but again all in English translations. Anyway when I went to where ~~[illegible]~~ 'Th' adversary... digt himself four yard under the countermines.. I think a' will plow up all, if there is not better directions from ~~that~~ those plutty whoresons at Bde HQ – Jesu Mawr! what is he called – Prigadeer Rhys Prys-Davy V.C D.S.O nor do not forget two bars to his DSO. – Welsh enough indeed & to bloody spare, in nomine, but not a word of yr hen iaith ~~[illegible]~~ not a ~~[illegible]~~ whoreson word of it."

~~[illegible]~~

Very typical of certain Welsh ~~[illegible]~~ soldiers ~~[illegible]~~ who I remember though tending to be 'radical' & somewhat rebellious would be very 'pedantic' & say 'why have we not exact & precise orders? Major Lillywhite I tell you is an ass, whoreson vague in his orders."

9

Sorry René more wasted words but ~~[illegible]~~ talk about anamnesis ~~a~~ re-calling, re-presentations of Shakespeare's Fluellen – they were *there* alright. But one odd thing S. makes Fluellen say by 'Cheshu' and 'Chrish' whereas while they still use the oath especially when particularly angered or frustrated, but the Welsh ~~form~~ form of 'Christ' the ~~anointed~~ anointed one, is & always has been Crīst direct from Latin Christus & preserving the long i (= ee) & Jesus or Jesu in Welsh are & always were ~~Ies~~ Iesu pronounced ~~as~~ more or less as in English phonetics would be yess-ee because the Welsh u & the Welsh i are virtually (especially in Southern Welsh) the same ~~ee~~ that is ~~[illegible]~~ ee just as 'i' was pronounced in English, until sometime between Malory & Shakespeare it lost its pure vowel sound ee & became a ~~dipthong~~ 'ah-ee', I'm ~~afraid~~ afraid I've bored you with this ~~[illegible]~~ instance before, about how in a reading on the 3rd Pro BBC about ten years or more back they read parts of Langland in the reconstruction of 14th Cent English phonetics it was marvellous, I thought for I have been struggling with Langland for many years but mainly ~~in transl~~ with translation to help, but not having any proper grounding in Middle English grammar & phonetics did not know how it really ~~sounding~~ sounded, but in that broadcast it ~~[illegible]~~ not only became clear or much clearer in meaning as well as in the beauty of form. It also amused me because one could see what become 'London Cockney ~~cockney~~

diphthong

& I wish I could spell.

but I note the Irish Captain Macmorris 'By Chrish, la,' & that sounds more like

~~Iesu~~ Jesus Christ would be Iesu Grist ~~and~~ would the same in Middle Welsh as in Modern Welsh & pronounced Yess-ee greest — the 'C' mutates to G when preceded by Iesu

10

You know how the Lady Meed or Mede
whose influence was over the King, Lords,
Bishops etc is called ~~in 'B' text~~ in
the texts of Langland (- I have only 'B' text
Skeat - indeed I think it is the
most available text) ~~a~~ how passus III
opens "~~Now~~ Now is Mede ~~[illegible]~~ Mayde - ~~and~~ ~~[illegible]~~ nemo of hem alle etc"
was brought alone to the King

Spe[illegible]

Well, as Mead or Meed for us is pronounced 'Meed'
to rhyme with 'need' & means recompense, hire,
reward, munificence of some sort, and the Maid
~~[illegible]~~ to rhyme with paid or what you will.
In this 14th ~~[illegible]~~ Cent the Constitutes say by Cambridge
Scholars Mede approximates more to May-de but
the final e not heavy but light on the air
while þe Mayde became more like a Cockney
would say ~~[illegible]~~ not Maid but something more
like my-eed because the 'a' in Middle English
would be ~~[illegible]~~ more like 'ah', & the 'y' ~~[illegible]~~ more ~~[illegible]~~ or
less like 'i' = ee, & I think the final 'e' was
just light. ~~anyway~~ anyway Mede and Mayde
had something of ~~a reversal of sound~~.
of a reversal of sounds

Thursday August 29

Your letter with the draft of Middle Sea & Lear Sea
for ~~it~~ which many, many thanks; but I think
I had better ~~[illegible]~~ this letter to get it posted.
~~I'll~~ I send the Rite & Foretime & other sheets
which I've marked & here & there made
suggestions. But if I get someone to
post this letter ~~[illegible]~~ of ten pages it will
at least get that out of the way.
For as I wrote before our letters sometimes
cross so that questions of a may ask
have perhaps been answered in a letter already
in the post.
Is it just distress of Margaret a huge
difficulty - I said in my last attempt to
answer a letter for her, my mind what
you said. To wit: ~~[illegible]~~ None of us
can live in this lachrymal valley existing
on the love of somebody else - dear H.
is not ~~an immortal~~ one of the Immortals

but a human being, I am terribly
distressed about the whole thing, but can't
discover at all what really & so
absolutely caused the break. I've heard no
more from Harman - He came a bit back
~~&~~ it was a most affectionate meeting.
Almost 'Dr Livingstone, I presume' but
we did not mention the break with M.
He wanted to know about dear Bernard's
death for that had upset him a lot
Then Sabina & her husband came & ~~[illegible]~~
my H. went with them - they all had some engagement
to keep. So I saw H. for only 20 minutes at the most.

Must shut up René ~~[illegible]~~ annwylaf, ~~[illegible]~~ sorry of your
distress, it ~~[illegible]~~ is the word, about Ros. Much love to Joan & Rosiclere

God bless you René

I hope this awful scrawl
reaches you. & I'll send
the other ~~[illegible]~~ MSS etc as soon
as I can.
Yours, as ever
Dai.